	1892-3.	1902-3.	1904-5.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Piece-goods :—			
European	76,688	34,72,934	35,92,556
Indian	21,572	9,60,185	7,86,485
Metals :—			
Brass and copper	1,33,143	1,42,410	99,888
Iron	1,31,270	4,92,020	1,19,567
Salt	4,83,293	8,69,761	9,32,601
Sugar :—			
Refined	4,82,584	9,21,872	8,28,675
Unrefined	1,15,433	2,47,686	3,43,761
Tea :—			
Indian	1,73,730	3,57,638	5,22,871
Foreign	2,030	1,360	3,615
Tobacco	1,01,253	2,32,302	3,91,960
Petroleum	56,112	81,795	1,84,164

In 1892–3 the total exports were valued at 53·3 lakhs. In 1902–3 the value reached 99·6 lakhs, and in 1904–5, 192 lakhs. The following table shows the value of the more important exports in the years selected :—

	1892-3.	1902-3.	1904-5.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Drugs, not intoxicating	1,60,625	5,06,192	5,78,425
Dyes	2,74,826	95,533	48,023
Fruits	2,38,683	4,58,702	7,48,883
Hides	1,86,594	2,97,617	7,98,160
Skins	1,39,386	3,43,350	5,63,065
Ghī	16,50,172	20,05,849	30,02,974
Linseed	1,335	6,55,674	73,952
Wool :—			
Manufactured piece-goods	5,91,439	7,51,365	10,75,047
Shawls	2,19,275	35,600	1,000

The value of fruits exported is increasing steadily, and would expand further with more rapid communications. *Ghī* also is a very important export. Perhaps one of the most remarkable increases is that in linseed, which possessed very little value before the opening of the cart-road. The trade in shawls was practically dead before 1892–3. An important new staple not included in the list must be noticed. Raw silk produced in the Kashmīr Valley has been exported in rapidly increasing quantities and values, and there are indications that it will become one of the most important products of the country. The value increased from Rs. 7,000 in 1897–8 to 13·6 lakhs in 1902–3 and nearly 21 lakhs in 1904–5.

Through trade.

Another item of some importance is the trade which passes through Kashmīr between India, Chinese Turkistān, and

747 His Highness 'adopted' 5 Polish refugee children in British India for a period of one year. The War Aid Committee similarly 'adopted' 10 of these children for the same period.

His Highness has also contributed large sums of money from his Privy Purse for particular purposes connected with or arising out of the war.

722 His Highness visited the Middle East in October 1941 and inspected his own as well as other Indian troops there. He broadcast a message from there calling upon the people in this country to put forth further efforts in the war and inspiring them with hope in the ultimate triumph of justice.

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656 Long before the regulation of prices of foodstuffs was introduced in many parts of India, His Highness' Govern-
435 ment had set up the Food Control Department for the control and distribution of *shali*, the chief staple of the Valley. The arrangement continues to the present day and *shali* is sold to consumers in Srinagar at fixed rates in Government controlled sale centres. Over a year ago, however, the soaring prices of other foodstuffs and the general food situation in the valley, as a whole, caused much anxiety, and His Highness' Government had to adopt several measures to relieve the situation. The measures included the fixation of the maximum sale prices of food-grains, restrictions on the movement of food-grains, restrictions on the export of potatoes, *til*, *sarson*, *alsi* and oil extracted therefrom and the opening of shops in Srinagar and certain towns and villages in the *mufassils*, where the poor classes of people could get grains at fixed rates. Food-grains were made available n deficit areas at low prices, at a considerable loss to the Government. Boards of Food Control, with representatives of different communities and interests, were constituted in both the provinces to deal with questions of policy relating to food-grains. Rationing of other important essentials of life, like fuel and sugar, was introduced. A Department of Supplies was set up.

657 Early in January 1943, His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur placed at the disposal of the Government a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 to serve as the nucleus of a Fund for

161 722 people in the prime of their lives constitute very strong factors in reducing the birth-rate and the effects of War would naturally have been most disastrous on the population of the Jammu Province which supplies the ranks of the State Military. This factor greatly accounts for the small percentage increase of only 2·7 per cent. in the Jammu Province during the decade 1911-1920. In view of the above circumstances, the increase of 5·1 per cent. for the whole State during the decade was fairly satisfactory as compared with the average increase of 1·2 per cent. for the whole of India.

V. THE CONDITIONS OF THE PAST DECADE 1921-1931.

132 17.—From a survey of the remote past we turn our attention to the closing decade 1921-1930 with which our Report is principally concerned and start with a general review of the agricultural, economic and seasonal conditions of this period in some greater detail since these exercise a substantial influence over the growth of population. The quantity of normal rainfall during the decade has already been shown by districts in the Subsidiary Table I and by tehsils in the marginal table under the paragraph dealing with Density and Rainfall. What remains now is to trace the course of rainfall during the years drawing attention to the exceptionally dry years as also to the good rainfall periods. Instead of giving a general account of these conditions for the whole decade it would be more advantageous to discuss them from year to year as far as possible in order to single out the good and bad years and avoid the confusion which the running account of such a long period involves. In preparing this brief account frequent help has been taken from authoritative sources such as the Annual Administration Reports of the State as also the Departmental notes obtained from the Heads of the State Departments for purposes of the Census.

The 1921 Census having been taken on the 18th of March 1921 corresponding to the Bikram date (Chet 1977) our review should naturally commence with the Sambat year 1978 but as only one combined Administration Report of the State was issued for three years 1977, 1978 and 1979, it will be advantageous to take these three years together and as also the subsequent 4½ years' period till the adoption of Fasli year by His Highness' Government with effect from the 1st of Katik 1984.

Triennium 1977, 1978 and 1979 (1921, 1922 and 1923).—*Weather crops and general conditions of the people.*—In the Jammu Province the rainfall was untimely and deficient during 1977 causing damage to both the *Rabbi* and *Kharif* crops, but in 1978 and 1979 it was fairly distributed, timely and sufficient and in the last year the condition of crops was well above the average. In Kashmir the rainfall in 1977 was below normal and not well distributed partially damaging the *Rabbi* crops; in 1978 also unfair distribution damaged the *Kharif* crops; but in 1979 conditions of the crops improved by the advent of timely and sufficient rains. In Gilgit the abnormal rainfall and early snowfall of 1977 brought considerable misfortune to the *Rabbi* and *Kharif* crops though this very year gave equal distribution of rain and snowfall resulting in a good crop in Ladakh. 1978 proved, however, unpropitious as insufficient rainfall brought about a scarcity of food stuffs in Gilgit while in Ladakh crops suffered from excessive rainfall.

241 *Cultivated area.*—The total cultivated area in the State fell, from 2,036,089 acres in 1976 to 2,031,801 acres in 1977 and 2,031,424 acres in 1978 but rose to 2,050,054 acres in 1979.

164 435 *General condition of the people: Kashmir Province.*—The general health of the people was fairly good as there was no epidemic and the birth-rate was higher than the death rate. Prices ruled high in 1977 and experienced a slight fall in subsequent years 1978 and 1979. The rise in wages benefitted the zamindars who, when free from agriculture took to labour. The number of live-stock increased.

441 of people who for the past years were subjected to the ravages of famine and scarcity conditions. There was enough grain and to spare for exportation. The opening of Banihal Cart Road which is the one all-State route connecting the two provinces of Jammu and Kashmir was the greatest work of the decade. The health was generally good save in the Jammu district where Plague caused much mortality. In 1981 the condition was practically the same but there was no epidemic while in 1982 the general economic condition was slightly better owing to the general fall in the prices of cloth, sugar, tea and salt which are the main commodities for which the zamindar is dependent on the market. The higher prices of food stuffs also brought gain to the agriculturist. There was not much improvement in 1983 excepting the slight rise in prices of food grains.

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Kashmir Province.—In Kashmir the year 1980 was responsible for good harvests, high wages, absence from epidemics, decrease in forced labour, flourishing condition of people and prohibition of import of Shali into Srinagar and permission for its export to British India by Private Agencies. In 1981 with the exception of a Cholera outbreak the province had fair harvests, nice weather and good economic conditions which but for the feeble outbreaks of Cholera and Plague in 1982 were well maintained during 1982 and 1983.

Frontier Districts.—But for a mild attack of Influenza in Gilgit, the year 1980 proved to be a healthy year being free from disease and attended with satisfactory conditions. The people no doubt are generally poor which is due not only to the labour being unskilled and unable to fetch high wages but want of any industry or a brisk trade, the whole population being engaged in agriculture which unfortunately has no further land for expansion. The remaining years 1981, 1982 and 1983 were normal.

Fasli year 1984-85.—It is necessary to explain here the fact that His Highness' Government ordered the abandonment of the old Bikram year and adoption in its stead of the Fasli year which commences with the seventh month of the Bikram year namely on 1st of Katik and closes with the month of Assuj. The first Fasli year 1984-85 started with the 1st of Katik 1984 (about the middle of October) and is represented in duplicate figures as shown above and consequently the conditions for the years after 1983 are represented by the Fasli years instead of Bikrami years.

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Character of the Seasons.—The years 1984-85 proved very inauspicious for Kashmir Province as the unprecedented and heavy rainfall continuing incessantly for well over two days brought disastrous floods which besides flooding the valley inflicted terrible destruction on crops and cattle alike. All communications with the outside world were cut off and the Kashmir valley was for several days completely isolated. Although the crops in Muzaffarabad district did not, on account of high elevation, suffer so much from floods as through excessive rainfall yet the washing away of the Kishenganga and Domel bridges by the unprecedented floods both in the Jhelum and the Kishenganga rivers brought about a serious dislocation of the traffic of the district by cutting off the transport communications between Abbotabad and Domel. During the winter when the snows block the Murree road all traffic between Srinagar and the Punjab is diverted to this road which is free from snow throughout the year but loss of the above two bridges rendered the use of this route by wheeled traffic impossible. The bridges have, however, been reconstructed now in 1932 *i. e.*, after 4 years of their destruction and consequently this period was not favourable for the flow of the trade of this district. The tehsils of Muzaffarabad district continued under the Settlement operations. The province was frees from epidemic diseases but for the Small-Pox outbreak in Srinagar city in 1985 resulting in 1,002 deaths.

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The annual Amarnath pilgrimage started in good weather from Srinagar but was overtaken by heavy incessant rains accompanied by snows in high alti-

[Errata: read "free" for "frees"; cf. errata sheet, p. 329, category 116 -- Analyst]

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tudes. Although many pilgrims were detained by the authorities still many *Sadhus* and other enthusiastic pilgrims proceeded despite warnings and met with untold miseries and privations. Some lives were lost due to extreme cold and starvation.

In the Jammu Province, the vagaries of heaven displayed themselves at their worst during this year when the rains which balked the hopes of the tiller at the time of the sowing season descended on earth in unprecedented fury in the month of Bhadon 1985 causing every river, stream, rivulet and nallah to rise to undreamt of heights bringing wholesale destruction to all life and property that came before the fatal current. The loss was immense. Crops were washed away, cattle drowned, bridges and buildings destroyed and some human life swallowed up by the furious floods.

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The *Rabbi* crops had a severe blast in the bargain. The general condition of the people was on the whole average, public health being comparatively better on account of absence of any epidemic excepting the usual malarial fever which is regarded an every day affair and not viewed as a serious thing. The prices of food staples continued stationery and import of grains into Mirpur district was kept free of customs duty.

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Fasli year 1985-86.—For the Kashmir Province the year 1985-86, however, started with propitious signs and the rainfall being sufficient and well distributed in the earlier part of the year resulted in good crops all round and bade fare to make up for the misfortunes of the previous year, but Heavens intervened and all hopes were blighted by heavy rains in Bhadon bringing in their train floods of the same magnitude as of the last year followed by immense loss to crops, cattle, and houses. Scarcity of fodder caused much suffering to the livestock. Muzaffarabad district had well distributed rains with fairly good crops. Relief measures necessitated by two consecutive floods of 1985 and 1986 were continued by the Government by sanction of liberal grants for Taccavi (Rs. 167,613), restoration of the means of communications and relief works. The Government also obtained on loan the services of a flood expert whose scheme involving an expenditure of 24 lacs has been sanctioned by the Government.

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The prices of *Kharif* crops continued high while those of the *Rabi* suffered some reduction. The prices of food stuffs are generally dependent in this province on the price of Shali which is the staple food of the Kashmiries. Since the issue price of Shali for the city requirement which is the only market of grain is authoritatively fixed by the Granaries Department; the rates of food stuffs in general remained normal in the face of the embargo laid on the export of food stuffs. The province had no epidemic during the year.

In the Jammu Province prices were lower and import of grain into Mirpur continued free of customs duty. Timely and sufficient rains yielded good crops although the floods repeated their visit on a smaller scale in Bhadon 1986. The visitation of locusts in Kathua, Udhampur and Mirpur districts was a great nuisance as it destroyed 378 acres of crop in Mirpur tehsil although no appreciable damage was done in other tehsils. Special measures adopted by the Government aided by the willing co-operation of the zamindars went a great way in minimising the damage. The public health was comparatively better as there was no epidemic outbreak.

Government measures continued to check the growth of venereal diseases in the hilly tehsils of Jammu. The Government besides specially holding the Zaildars, Lambardars and Chowkidars responsible for keeping a strict watch over cases of abduction of women also deputed religious preachers to enlighten the public opinion against such immoral practices. The prices of grains remained gradually higher. With the inauguration of Agriculturists Relief Regulation the lot of the zamindars underwent a considerable improvement.

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Fasli year 1986-87.—In Kashmir valley the rainfall was excessive compared with the preceding year resulting in water logging of considerable areas in the

1 [Errata: of category 116, p. 329 for corrections--Analyst]

132 Srinagar Circle, which told heavily on *Rabbi* and *Kharif* crops. The Muzaffarabad district had well distributed rainfall and good crops. Hailstorms did some damage in certain places. The year was immune from epidemics excepting an outbreak of Cholera claiming 133 victims. There was a disastrous fire at Muzaffarabad and with the exception of the Treasury all State office buildings the Tehsil, Wazarat and the Court were burnt down.

[164]

435 Prices of *Rabbi* crops remained generally higher. The Shāli situation was under full control. The general condition of the people was good. The fresh land revenue assessment of the Uri tehsil was announced during the year and was received well by the zamindars.

731 With the exception of Mirpur and Bhadarwah tehsils the Jammu Province had timely and sufficient rains and good harvests. The visitation of locusts constituted a great nuisance throughout the province including the Jammu city where as if to give a demonstration of their strength they one day invaded even the Government offices and in a minute the walls, the doors electric posts and trees were literally blackened by their swarming numbers and their flying legions outside actually clouded the sun from view. The Government spent considerable amounts in the destruction of the pests by actually offering price per maund of the eggs destroyed by the zamindars. The Revenue officers had a busy time and the visits of high officers and the interest taken by the Minister went a great way in freeing the country from the locusts.

241 Inscrutable are the purposes of heaven as instead of anticipated scarcity and starvation fields yielded bumper crops and the over-flowing of grain markets lowered the prices so much that they touched the bottom and the agriculturists began to find it difficult to adjust themselves to the changed conditions.

124 General condition of the people was on the whole average the year being immune from diseases. The import of grain free of duty continued as also the measures against venereal diseases and abduction of women.

Fasli year 1987-88 (upto end of 1987).—Although the Fasli year is styled 1987-88 our account ends with the close of Bikrami year 1987 when the final Census was taken.

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Jammu district had well distributed rain attended with fair harvests; Mirpur had scarcity at *Rabbi* and excess at *Kharif* thus adversely affecting crops; Riasi and Udhampur districts had less rainfall than the previous year while Kathua had sufficient and timely rains. On the whole the rains were less favourable than of the past year.

The prices of grains showed a downward tendency due to the world slump; and fall in prices in the contiguous districts prevented the prices from rising here. Import of grain in Mirpur and Kathua continued free of customs duty. The general health of the people was satisfactory as there was no epidemic.

In the Kashmir Province the rains were scarce although better than the last year. There were no accidental calamities and no appreciable difference in prices. The general condition of the people continued good till end of 1987 as the political agitation started in the month of Har 1988 which does not fall within our discussion.

The condition of the zamindars is one of steady progress. The abnormal fall in prices in British India did not affect the Kashmir zamindars who obtained fixed prices from the Food Control Department which has proved a great boon both to the urban and rural population.

312 **H. Relaxation of Irrigation.**—Having discussed the character of the seasons, the condition of crops and the general economic condition of the people

4 [Errata: read "increase" for "decrease"; cf. errata sheet, p. 221, category H4 -- Analysis]